

extensive lantern glazed with large sheets of ground plate glass. It is intended, also, to have a large school-room attached.

Grantham.—The mayor has been exerting himself to induce the two rival Corn Exchange committees to amalgamate, but without success. The promoters of the proposed building in the Market-place were willing, but the other committee declined, alleging that all their shares were taken, and their project progressing favourably. They have entered on the site in Elmer-street, and sold by auction some of the old building materials purchased with the ground. The market-place committee have resolved to forward their scheme, and have appointed ten directors. A drawing of the intended building has been exhibited. It is said to be "a fine and imposing edifice."

Eamont-bridge.—Lord Brougham has commenced collecting materials for the purpose of building "a splendid gymnasium" in a suitable field at the village of Eamont-bridge, in Westmoreland, a great part of which will be of glass, after the fashion of the "Crystal Palace." It is not known whether his lordship will throw the gymnasium open to the public, or whether it is intended exclusively for his own family and visitors when at Brougham Hall.

Newcastle and Gateshead.—It is the intention of the Union Gas Company to reduce the price of gas from 4s. 6d. to 4s. per 1,000 cubic feet, to commence from the 1st of August next. We hope to be enabled, ere long, to announce further reductions, by which the probability of competition will be materially diminished.—*Gateshead Observer.*

Staircase.—We understand, says the *Galloway Advertiser*, that the Earl of Stair has contracted for an addition to this useful harbour in the bay of Luce, at an expense of about 1,000*l.* The effect of this harbour has already been much felt in reducing the price of lime, slates, coals, &c. at Glenluce, and elsewhere in that neighbourhood.

ARCHITECTURE IN CHINA.

Do not imagine, fastidious reader, that I am about to inflict upon you a profound essay on the architecture of that ancient people whose monarchs have claimed such intimate relationship to the heavenly bodies, nor even to suggest so much as the modern application of the spire and lattice-work so much in favour in the celestial empire. Vitruvius forbid. The days are past of such monstrosities: we are grown wiser now. Grecian art and Antipodean extravagance are alike discarded, and have given place to confusion. No, it is not of that I wish to speak, but merely to make an observation on a custom in China. The remarkable uniformity of all edifices in that region has been observed by every traveller: go where you will, the convex roof, trellis work, and octagonal door eternally presents itself, with scarcely any variation. The natives have been accused of servile copyism and lack of invention; but it has been found that this monotony is not to be attributed to the disciples of Fo-Hi (who would probably make as good architects as the English at least), but to the restrictions of certain laws or Building Acts which define the class and style of house for every grade with studied exactness. These laws are strictly enforced by officers who, as Mr. Bury observes, "may be properly designated district surveyors," only that their powers are more extended than those who hold that office in our land, and their injunctions are more difficult of evasion. The restrictions of our Building Act, and the decision of the official referees may, by a little dexterous manoeuvring, be set at defiance; but it is not so with the barbarians. Now, I conceive that this institution is worthy of imitation in our enlightened nation, and would be productive of much benefit to architecture, at least one branch of it. Were this Chinese functionary in existence here, we might hope to see taste less outraged than it is at present in villa residences and similar absurdities that disfigure our suburbs. A man's purse would not then allow him to transgress all rule and precedent, pile Pelion on Ossa, or the Par-

thenon on the Elizabethan style, or improve ancient edifices, and convert them to his own purpose, and produce architectural abortions half Bucephalus, half Rosinante. When fashion in days of yore was even more blindly followed than she is now, and all sorts of excesses were perpetrated by her infatuated disciples, Government, warned by the past, and foreseeing the evils that must ensue, wisely checked the extravagant passion in dress by restricting the length of the boot-toe, and enjoining that no man under a knight should wear a tunic that did not cover his hips, and similar wholesome enactments, which were enforced by heavy penalties. Now, though I will not go so far as to desire the adoption of such arbitrary measures, I think that some similar regulations would be serviceable to check the errors of ignorance and caprice in building now-a-days. Why should an individual be permitted to mar our public ways, and shock the sensibilities of every man of taste as it is done wherever you turn? If a person has a passion for hideous structures, the world is wide, let him go to Australia, Tartary, the mountains of the moon—but let him not remain in Britain to spread his noxious distemper, and make us the jest and laughing-stock of our neighbours.

PALLADIO SECUNDUS.

IRISH ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTIC DOINGS.

THE Munster Exhibition is to open on the 10th of June, and will be inspected by the Lord Lieutenant, who has become the patron. A sum of 15,000*l.* has been contributed, and the alterations and additions which are being made to the Corn Exchange are progressing, and will shortly be complete. This building, which the trustees have placed at the disposal of the managing committee (with the grounds attached) inclose an area of five acres. The northern hall is 85 feet by 86 feet, leading to a gallery 320 feet long by 30 feet wide, lighted from above.

The Lords of the Treasury have agreed to ask Parliament for a grant of 26,000*l.* for the erection of a new custom-house at Belfast.

A new convent is to be erected for the Sisters of Mercy at Ballinrobe.

Extensive municipal improvements are intended by the present corporation of Dublin. Carlisle-bridge is to be widened, the pathways of Sackville-street are to be increased to 25 feet in width (like the Boulevards of Paris), a new line of street is to be opened from the terminus of the Midland Great Western Railway, the King's inns, and Town-hall barracks, to Richmond-bridge and the Four Courts. The grand jury have taken up the subject warmly, and this latter change is most desirable, as the approaches to the Galway terminus are not by any means adequate to the traffic of the line, which is likely to become one of the most important in the kingdom.

The Roman Catholic church of Adare, county of Limerick, is being improved and enlarged at an outlay of about 1,000*l.* to which expenditure the Earl of Dunraven was the principal contributor. The new portions are in the Early English style: the venerable looking tower of the old church still stands. The site is in the vicinity of the Earl of Dunraven's demesne, which contains many interesting and extensive ruins. Alterations and additions have been made to the castle.

The Waterford and Limerick line has been opened as far as Clonmel. A special engine, guided by Mr. Hemans, engineer-in-chief, and decorated with flags, brought a first-class carriage, containing some of the directors, and traversed the line. Mr. Dargan is the contractor.

The foundation-stone of a new Roman Catholic church has been laid at Ballinasloe, the drawings being furnished by Mr. J. J. McCarthy, architect.

The Dublin and Belfast Junction line is expected to be opened on the 10th of May (with exception of the Boyne Viaduct). A trial trip has taken place with satisfactory result.

The Irish Ballast Board have declared Messrs. Crowe, of Dublin, contractors for the erection of two new lighthouses on the

Islands of Arran, one on the north and the other on Brannick Island. The lantern of the former will be 100 feet, and that of the latter 88 feet above the rock. The cost of construction will be about 10,000*l.* and they will occupy about two years in building. The plans have been furnished by Mr. George Halpin, C.E. and have received the sanction of the Trinity Board in London.

EXTENSION OF THE BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

WITH a view of extending the operations of this Institution, a meeting was arranged by Mr. Joseph Bird with the principal builders of Brighton, invited by him to dine with a deputation of the committee from London, who volunteered their co-operation on the occasion, and this took place at the New Ship Hotel on the 21st ult.

The chairman, Mr. Higgo, entered into a detail of the objects for which the institution was formed, from its origin in 1847 to the present time, and concluded by suggesting that a committee should be formed by the builders of Brighton.

Mr. G. Cheeseman, jun. stated that he conceived the builders of Brighton to be honoured by the invitation, and gave his cordial adhesion to the rules and regulations of the society, believing the institution was founded for the benefit of the needy and unfortunate. The high constable, Mr. Beedham also addressed the meeting, assuring them of his hearty co-operation with the object they had in view; that he had always taken an interest in the welfare of the institution, and would use all his best energies to further its prosperity. After various addresses, the business was concluded by appointing Mr. George Maynard, hon. sec. for the Brighton committee.

RECOVERY OF SURVEYORS' FEES.

In the *Whitechapel County Court* recently, an action was brought by Mr. John Barnett, surveyor, to recover 32*l.* 5*s.* of Mr. J. H. Dew, builder. It appeared that Messrs. Sewell and Fox, solicitors to the trustees of an estate, called Cookson's estate, let on building leases various portions of the estate, and appointed the plaintiff as surveyor to that portion leased to the defendant. There were seventy-two houses on this portion of the estate, for which plaintiff was to receive 1*l.* 10*s.* for his services as surveyor, upon each house, as soon as it was covered in. Mr. Barnett had at various times been so paid.

Mr. Barnett said he was engaged by Messrs. Fox and Sewell, and afterwards by Mr. Dew and his partner, Mr. Blencairn. (Here a draft of an agreement was objected to on account of its being unstamped.) This was in 1848; and as the works progressed, it became necessary to raise funds to complete the houses. The defendants applied to him to make a report for that purpose, which he did, and upon that report they raised a considerable sum. For this he charged five guineas. He had received money for his services from Messrs. Dew and Blencairn, and afterwards from the defendant alone. Always considered the lessee and not the lessor had to pay the surveyor, although the lessor nominated the surveyor.

Cross-examined by Mr. Birnie.—Never received a letter of which this is, as you say, the copy. Has no such letter, dated 12th March, 1850, stating my services were no longer required. Had heard Mr. Chorner, the trustee, had sold the estate. Saw it advertised for sale in February, 1850. Remembers selling a piece of ground to the Metropolitan Building Society, and the society threatening law proceedings for the sale against the defendant. He settled the dispute to prevent a law-suit. Was never warned off the ground or requested to go off. Mr. George Dew said his brother was impressed with the idea that he, witness, had been overpaid. There were five streets. Did not claim the fees until the houses were covered in.

Mr. W. Blencairn, builder, said, in conjunction with Mr. Dew, he built forty-nine houses on Cookson's estate. Always understood Mr. Barnett was their surveyor, and in Mr. Dew's presence it was arranged the plaintiff should have 30*s.* per house. Gave plaintiff instructions to make a report, and something under 3,000*l.* was advanced by Messrs. Sewell and Fox upon that report.

By Mr. Birnie.—Mr. Chorner, the trustee, first sent him to plaintiff. Do not know if we had power to discharge plaintiff. The district surveyor is not sufficient for a builder: he is more a builder's